



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 April 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- Agence France Presse reports that seven people were killed, three injured, and 150,000 evacuated after large amounts of toxic chlorine gas spewed from a factory in southwest China's Chongqing municipality. (See item [6](#))
- The U.S. Coast Guard announces the establishment of an International Port Security Program that will help the U.S. and its maritime trading partners better protect the global shipping industry by facilitating the implementation of security improvements in ports around the world. (See item [12](#))
- BBC News reports Internet provider EarthLink says it uncovered 29.5 million examples of spyware on over one million computers scanned between January and March of this year. (See item [29](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 16, Associated Press* — **EnCana to acquire energy company Tom Brown. Canadian energy giant EnCana Corp. is buying Tom Brown Inc. of Denver, CO, in a \$2.2 billion cash deal that will boost its assets in Colorado, Wyoming and Texas. Under the latest deal, Calgary, Alberta-based Encana would pay \$48 per share for Tom Brown. That amounts to a**

premium of 24 percent over Tom Brown's closing price Wednesday, and values the company at about \$2.2 billion. EnCana is also assuming debt that pushes the total value of the deal to \$2.7 billion. Encana's acquisition was expected to add 325 million cubic feet equivalent per day of gas production, about 1.2 trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves and about 2 million undeveloped acres. **"The U.S. Rockies have been EnCana's highest growth region and this acquisition is anticipated to take our U.S. gas production to 1 billion cubic feet per day," EnCana CEO Gwyn Morgan said.** Since 1998, Tom Brown has boosted production by 18 percent per year from the Piceance, Green River, Wind River, Paradox, East Texas, Permian and Western Canada Sedimentary basins, the companies said. Tom Brown has identified an estimated 3,200 drilling locations in that area.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A16462-2004Apr 16.html>

2. *April 15, Associated Press* — **Government to ship nuclear waste to Nevada.** The Department of Energy (DOE) said Thursday, April 15, it will ship radioactive waste from a Cold War-era nuclear plant in Ohio to Nevada despite that state's threat of legal action. **DOE plans to truck what it says are the most dangerous remaining wastes at the former Fernald uranium-processing plant.** Fernald processed uranium metal from 1951 until 1989 for use in government reactors to produce nuclear weapons. The uranium ore sludge residue and powdery, metallic production wastes material will be shipped to the Nevada Test Site, a vast desert tract 65 miles north of Las Vegas that the government uses for disposal of low-level radioactive waste. Other wastes from Fernald, about 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, have been shipped for years to the Nevada site. However, **Nevada officials say the silo waste is more radioactive and is mixed with hazardous waste -- and will need a more secure disposal site with lined pits.** In a letter faxed Tuesday, April 13, to DOE, Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval said he intends to sue in federal court to stop the shipments unless the government tells him by April 30 that it will voluntarily stop them.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/politics/8441499.htm?1c>

3. *April 15, Global Security Newswire* — **Department of Energy restructures efforts to recover foreign uranium.** The Department of Energy (DOE) on Wednesday, April 14, announced the restructuring of an effort to recover spent U.S.-origin nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors around the world. In February, DOE's inspector general released a report critical of the agency's "takeback" policy, which allows foreign research reactors that use U.S. uranium fuel to return the spent material to the U.S. for disposal. As of 1993, 51 countries possessed more than 17,500 kilograms of U.S. highly enriched uranium, of which about 5,200 kilograms was eligible to be returned to the United States, according to the report. The inspector general's report warned that the U.S. was likely to only recover about half of the eligible material. Wednesday, DOE announced that the effort would be shifted from the Environmental Management Office to its National Nuclear Security Administration, which has a "proven track record in nonproliferation." **"This consolidation will refocus and strengthen our international campaign to deny terrorists opportunities to seize nuclear material," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. Abraham said that he ordered NNSA to develop a "threat-based prioritization" for the recovery of those materials eligible to be returned to the United States.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/041404gsn1.htm>

4.

*April 15, Pittsburgh Post–Gazette* — **State electric grid in need of a tuneup. Pennsylvania's electrical transmission grid is reliable but in need of some fine–tuning, and isn't immune to future blackouts like the one that darkened much of the Northeast last summer, according to testimony from the chairman of the state's Public Utility Commission (PUC).** There is no perfect electrical generation and delivery system, said PUC Chairman Terrance Fitzgerald, which is why "we need to do everything we reasonably can to prevent [blackouts]," despite the system's overall clean bill of health. He offered his testimony Tuesday, April 13, at a Pennsylvania Senate consumer protection hearing on blackout prevention and electric service reliability. Frank Koza, a manager with PJM Interconnection, said on the whole, long–range investment into transmission infrastructure is prudent, but a total overhaul on Pennsylvania's distribution grid is unnecessary. Some disagree with the optimistic diagnosis, including Nora Mead Brownell, who sits on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She says **since 1992, when a federal energy restructuring law was passed, there's been precious little investment in new transmission lines across the United States and in Pennsylvania. Those lines may hold up for now, but "are not capable of supporting a digital economy over a long period of time," Brownell said.**

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04106/301144.stm>

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## **Chemical Sector**

5. *April 16, The Center for Nonproliferation Studies* — **Osmium tetroxide — a new chemical terrorism weapon?** Recently, a highly toxic chemical osmium tetroxide has emerged as a key component of an alleged terrorist plot in London. **Serving legitimate functions in biological research and in specialized chemical industry, osmium tetroxide's suitability as a terrorist agent — a dual use compound — is limited, despite the characterizations of it generating chemical fallout.** On March 30, hundreds of British anti–terrorism police conducted raids throughout the London area after tracking a group of terrorist suspects over the course of several months. Authorities subsequently arrested eight British citizens of Pakistani origin, who were allegedly involved in the planning stages of a terrorist attack. **These suspects were researching the potential of detonating a chemical bomb in a crowded, civilian location within London and discussing the use of osmium tetroxide.** The suspects reportedly were not able to acquire the osmium tetroxide before authorities were able to intercept members of the group. Those involved are allegedly sympathetic to al Qaeda and were preparing to target Gatwick airport, the London subway, or other enclosed high–traffic areas

Source: <http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/week/040413.htm>

6. *April 16, Agence France Presse* — **Seven killed, 150,000 evacuated in southwest China chlorine leak. Seven people were killed, three injured and 150,000 evacuated after large amounts of toxic chlorine gas spewed from a factory in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, state media said.** The highly irritating, greenish–yellow gas began leaking from the Tianyuan Chemical Industry Plant in the densely populated Jiangbei district of downtown Chongqing Thursday evening, April 15, residents and the Xinhua news agency said. Local authorities moved to evacuate all residents within a one kilometer (0.62 mile) radius of the factory, rousing many from their slumber. **But by Friday evening, three of the factory's huge chlorine tanks exploded before emergency crews could control the leak, forcing more**

**people to be evacuated.** "Since the explosions of chlorine gas, so far 150,000 people have been evacuated," said Xinhua, which reported seven people were killed and three injured. In Jiangbei district, 80,000 people were relocated, while another 68,000 people in surrounding areas were also evacuated, Xinhua said. A member of the emergency team said another explosion could happen, Xinhua said.

Source: [http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/80521/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/80521/1/.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *April 16, Government Computer News* — **Blue is good, Army says. The Army's Blue Force Tracking (BFT) system has been so successful in Iraq and Afghanistan that nearly 40,000 more of the systems will be in use by 2008, officials said.** About 1,200 BFT vehicle and troop tracking systems were installed in vehicles, command posts and helicopters during the two conflicts. **BFT tracks allied and enemy forces by satellite, showing troop locations on monitors. Friendly forces appear on a map in blue and enemy forces in red.** Work has begun to increase the count of deployed tracking systems. "When we talked to soldiers, many said they needed it installed in higher densities at the company level so that platoon leaders, first sergeants, support units and other key players would have better battlefield awareness," said BFT product manager Lt. Col. John Bullington. The Army also wants to transmit Blue Force data to Air Force communications systems to give pilots an up-to-date view of ground troops.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/25603-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25603-1.html)

8. *April 16, Washington Post* — **Norway threatens to revoke support for Joint Strike Fighter. A top Norwegian Parliament official warned Thursday, April 15, that the country would abandon the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program if project manager Lockheed Martin Corp. doesn't help Norway's local industries secure work on the aircraft.** Norway is one of eight allies to sign up as partners on the \$244 billion fighter jet project and has pledged \$125 million to help develop the plane. Yet Norway's defense contractors have struggled to secure subcontracts on the project, said Marit Nybakk, chairperson of the defense committee in Norway's Parliament. When the Joint Strike Fighter, also known as the F-35, was created, the Pentagon courted allies to help fund development. Norway's Parliament will evaluate the country's participation in the program in June, Nybakk. **The departure of Norway would be a blow to the fighter program. If Norway departs and sets off an exodus, it could signal a crisis, industry analysts said.** "In the scheme of life, nonparticipation of a couple of smaller European companies will not impact the integrity of the program, but if there is a pile-on here, circumstances could change," said Jeff Bialos, an expert on transatlantic relations at Johns Hopkins University. "International participation is the backbone of the JSF program."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15927-2004Apr15.html>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

9. *April 15, Associated Press* — **Banks combat identity theft.** Assistance is on the way for victims of identity theft, one of the nation's fastest growing crimes. **Two big banks — Citigroup and Washington Mutual — have started free programs to assist customers whose names or accounts are compromised by thieves, and in June, a national organization representing some of the largest banks, brokerages and finance companies will launch an Identity Theft Assistance Center to help victims clear their names.** A study last year for the Federal Trade Commission found that nearly 10 million people a year are falling victim to identity thieves. Ronni Burns, director of business practices for Citi Cards, a division of Citigroup, said Citi credit and debit card holders who fall victim to identity thieves will be referred to a specialist who will serve "like a case worker" in dealing with their problems. Customers of Seattle, WA-based Washington Mutual will be offered a service which will give them access to the savings bank's ID theft center if they have problems. Steve Bartlett of the Financial Services Roundtable said that in addition to helping consumers, the Identity Theft Assistance Center will create a database "with material we can share with law enforcement agencies."
- Source: [http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11271~2\\_085435,00.html](http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11271~2_085435,00.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

10. *April 17, CNN* — **Security scare: LAX terminal evacuated. Terminal 5 at Los Angeles International Airport was evacuated late Friday, April 16, because of a security alert.** But the items that raised suspicions turned out to be a palm pilot and a stack of poker chips, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokesperson said. **Jennifer Marty with the TSA in Seattle said the arrangement of the items in the suitcase caused concern at 10:20 p.m (0520 GMT), and a bomb squad was called to investigate. Flights were cleared for take-off about two hours later.** Marty said those passengers who had passed the screening process were allowed to remain in the boarding areas and didn't need to be rescreened. The passenger with the suspicious item was allowed to board the plane after the items were identified. Initially, police described the suspicious item as a cell phone with protruding wires. Among the airlines served in Terminal 5 are Delta Air Lines, Aeromexico, Air France, Air Jamaica and China Southern.
- Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/West/04/17/lax.evacuation/index.html>

11. *April 16, U.S. Coast Guard* — **Coast Guard preparing for July 1 maritime security deadline.** The U.S. Coast Guard is rapidly preparing for a July 1 deadline that will see vast changes to the security climate in ports, port facilities and vessels around the world. **A new international code and U.S. law requires vessels and facilities implement security measures designed to protect the world's global shipping industry from terrorist attacks. The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and the Maritime Transportation Security Act require ports and vessels to control access, monitor activity, and screen personnel, baggage, cargo, and vehicles.** Under the U.S. law and the international code, port facilities and vessels must implement the new security measures by July 1. Some of the key milestones leading up to this deadline include: 1. Security plans received from 99 percent of required U.S. vessels and facilities 2. Alternative Security Programs used by two-thirds of the vessels that submitted plans 3. Initial reviews completed on most facility and vessel plans 4.



Area Maritime Security Committees established in all U.S. port areas

Source: <https://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=586&fuseaction=EXTERNAL.docview&pressid=36607>

12. *April 16, U.S. Coast Guard* — **Coast Guard to begin International Port Security Visits.** The U.S. Coast Guard on Friday, April 16, announced the establishment of an International Port Security Program that will help the United States and its maritime trading partners better protect the global shipping industry by facilitating the implementation of security improvements in ports around the world. The Coast Guard plans to begin the program with visits to countries this summer and fall. "Shipping is a global industry and the economy of nearly every nation relies on overseas trade," said Adm. Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. "By helping other nations evaluate security measures in their ports, we can help to ensure the safety and security of the global maritime transportation system." Under this effort, the Coast Guard and the host nations will work jointly to evaluate the countries' overall compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, an international agreement signed in December 2002 that will enter into full force on July 1. The Coast Guard is working very closely with Customs and Border Protection to ensure that this program, the Container Security Initiative and other programs are developed and executed in harmony.

Source: <https://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=651&fuseaction=EXTERNAL.docview&pressid=36578>

13. *April 16, Associated Press* — **MARC to take part in rail safety pilot program.** Passengers using the MARC commuter rail's New Carrollton, MD, station will undergo security screening as part of a federal rail pilot program slated for next month. **The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will conduct the checks at the station for MARC passengers and those riding on Amtrak trains that also stop at New Carrollton.** TSA officials they haven't yet decided what form those security checks for people and luggage will take or what technology will be used. They say they want to test whether it can be done quickly in a crowded train platform. MARC spokesman Richard Scher said TSA will be the lead agency for checking the Maryland's commuter trains that run through the station. The testing is expected to begin by the end of May and last 60 to 90 days.

Source: <http://www.thewbalchannel.com/travelgetaways/3011566/detail.html>

14. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Airport chiefs jailed after Italian air disaster.** Judges convicted four people of negligence and multiple manslaughter today, April 16, in the 2001 crash at Milan's Linate airport that killed 118 people — Italy's worst civil aviation disaster. The four were sentenced to prison terms ranging from six-and-a-half to eight years. **The October 8, 2001, crash occurred when a Scandinavian Airlines System airliner bound for Copenhagen, Denmark and a corporate jet collided in the morning fog on the Linate tarmac. The Milan airport's ground radar was out of service at the time.** The collision killed 110 people on the SAS MD-87 jetliner, four people on the Cessna business jet and four ground crew. The judges gave eight-year prison sentences to the director of the Linate airport, Vincenzo Fusco, and air traffic controller Paolo Zacchetti, who was on duty at the time, Pettinaroli said. Sandro Gualano, the former CEO of Italy's air traffic control agency, ENAV, and Francesco Federico, who oversees Milan's two airports, were sentenced to six-and-a-half years each, he said. **A report about the crash released earlier this year by Italy's national air safety agency laid the blame on human error and grossly inadequate airport**

procedures. Many also said the ground radar, which had been out of service for months while a new one was being installed, might have prevented the tragedy.

Source: [http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thesar/Layout/Article\\_Type1&c=Article&cid=1082111583990&call\\_pageid=968332188492&col=968705899037](http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thesar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1082111583990&call_pageid=968332188492&col=968705899037)

15. *April 15, Government Computer News* — **Funding shortfall stops TSA IT rollout.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has halted work on the second phase of its IT infrastructure because of a funding shortfall. TSA's acting deputy CIO Joe Peters yesterday, April 14, said 400 out of 600 airports and other locations have not received the "White Package," which includes broadband connections, LANs, offsite application hosting and high-tech phone systems. **Peters estimated that TSA needs about \$200 million more to finish deploying the second phase of its IT infrastructure. Some locations are using dial-up modems to connect to the Internet and have only basic phone systems, he said.** "We are stuck in a predicament," Peters said. "We are a new agency without legacy IT infrastructure to operate on, and funding shortfalls have prevented us from expanding [TSA's initial] capability." Peters said TSA is working with Homeland Security CIO Steve Cooper to identify and prioritize infrastructure requirements.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/homeland-security/25589-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/homeland-security/25589-1.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

16. *April 16, DM News* — **Potter reviews growth of several USPS programs. The U.S. Postal Service's Carrier Pickup program expands next week for a total of 204,000 city and rural carrier routes, Postmaster General John E. Potter told the postal service's Board of Governors at its monthly meeting.** Carrier Pickup lets customers go online to request next-day package pickups. There is no pickup fee because packages are picked up from customers as part of the carrier's normal delivery route. Potter also praised the recent success of Click-N-Ship Week, which took place at post offices nationwide March 22-26. "The results speak for themselves," said Potter, noting that online revenue for Click-N-Ship grew 216 percent during March. **Potter also noted the deployment this week of the first Automated Postal Center (APC) in Dallas. The APC is a self-service kiosk offering access to postal products and services. It accepts most retail transactions, including sending packages and letters, buying stamps, and searching for ZIP codes. APCs will be deployed at select locations across the country in coming months.**

Source: [http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article\\_id=27178](http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=27178)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

17. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Horse herd quarantined. A horse herd on a west Georgia farm has been placed under quarantine after the discovery of the contagious disease, equine strangles, state agriculture officials said.** No horses from the herd, numbering about

115, can be removed, nor can any be taken to the farm, in Talbot County, under the April 1 order by Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin. The quarantine is effective until a veterinarian certifies that for 30 days the horses have shown no signs of the disease. Strangles is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium called *Streptococcus equi*. It is not passed to humans.

Source: [http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap\\_newfullstory.asp?ID=36185](http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=36185)

18. *April 15, Canadian Press* — **Avian flu nears Vancouver suburbs.** While the British Columbia, Canada, Agriculture Ministry wrestles with how to dispose of a million potentially diseased chickens, federal food safety officials tracked the avian flu further west today to the edge of suburban Vancouver. **The highly infectious respiratory illness was found on a farm in Surrey, far from the original outbreak,** said Cornelius Kiley, chief British Columbia veterinarian for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. **It brings to 29 the number of commercial operations infected with the disease since the outbreak first erupted in February in the Fraser Valley, the heart of the billion-dollar British Columbia poultry industry.** Kiley said avian flu has also been detected in 10 backyard chicken flocks. The disease, which can decimate a poultry flock within days, now has spread far outside the original five kilometer radius hot zone near Abbotsford, as far west as Surrey and as far east as the outskirts of Chilliwack. Checkpoints have been set up at Hope, on the eastern edge of the Fraser Valley, and coastal ferry terminals to ensure no poultry is removed from the disease control zone.

Source: [http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thesar/Layout/Article\\_Type1&c=Article&cid=1082067019125&call\\_pageid=968332188854&col=968705899037](http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thesar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1082067019125&call_pageid=968332188854&col=968705899037)

19. *April 15, Western Producer (Canada)* — **Potato research takes aim at disease, pests.** Researchers in Alberta, Canada, have taken a quantum leap forward in their bid to develop a potato variety with resistance to both late blight disease and the Colorado potato beetle, two of the potato plant's main threats. Qin Chen, who is leading the effort at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge Research Center, said they have successfully transferred the late blight and potato bug resistance into one cultivar. They now need to test to find out how well that resistance holds up. Chen could not say how much longer it might be before that line of potato could be commercially available.

Source: <http://www.producer.com/articles/20040415/news/20040415news20.html>

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## **Food Sector**

20. *April 16, Food Production Daily* — **Impact of bioterrorism laws.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to evaluate the impact on foreign firms of its new laws on food imports, designed to protect the food supply from bioterrorism. The Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, which came into force at the end of last year, requires all facilities exporting foodstuffs, including ingredients, to the U.S. to register with the FDA and food importers to give the agency advance notice before shipments arrive at ports or border crossings. Nearly 20 percent of all imports into the U.S. are food and food products and the laws prompted accusations from some European firms that the U.S. was putting up trade



barriers. **The FDA this week called for comment on several aspects of the regulation, including how the regulations are affecting foreign companies and alternatives for prior notice submission on shipments.** The agency is planning to investigate whether any firms have stopped exports to the U.S. as a result of the costs required. It will equally look at loss of business for domestic firms.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news-NG.asp?id=51427>

21. *April 15, Food and Drug Administration* — **Butter and margarine recalled. Zander's Creamery, Inc., of Wisconsin, is recalling butter and butterine (60% butter and 40% margarine) products, because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.** *Listeria* can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections. The only known butter and butterine sold in retail stores is at GFS Marketplace Stores located in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan under the GFS label. The other butter and butterine products were distributed nationwide. These products include individual serving butter chips used by restaurants, butter and butterine cups distributed to restaurants, tubs of whipped butter for restaurants, and bulk butter for food manufacturers, primarily under the Zander's and GFS labels. To date no illnesses have been confirmed in connection with this problem. The recall was the result of routine sampling by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and the company which revealed that the finished products contained the bacteria.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/zanders04\\_04.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/zanders04_04.html)

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## **Water Sector**

22. *April 15, Water Tech Online* — **Drinking water data quality has improved. Drinking water data quality has improved considerably in many areas, according to the EPA's latest Data Reliability Analysis of the nation's drinking water systems.** The EPA's first report was released in 2000. The Safe Drinking Water Information System/Federal Version (SDWIS/FED) report contains data about public water system facilities including violations of federal drinking water standards and enforcement actions taken at those facilities. To date, this report is the most comprehensive data reported by states on the performance of public water systems. The report is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/reports.html>

Source: [http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N\\_ID=47098](http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=47098)

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## **Public Health Sector**

23. *April 16, News-Medical Net* — **Animal-human cross infection from food. With concerns mounting over the possible links between exotic foods and emergent diseases, the world scientific community is viewing many of these dishes with increasing suspicion.** Josephine Smart, a University of Calgary anthropologist who studies food and its cultural associations, was recently invited by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide her research expertise to a gathering of international scientists. "Scientists and public health professionals are increasingly concerned about the risks of animal-human cross infection from

food consumption, and they are turning to social anthropologists for help in developing better policies and monitoring systems," Smart says. "Every culture in the world has a number of foods that come from what could be considered unusual animal sources, so this is an issue that will only gain in profile." **"I suggest that eradication and prohibition is probably not going to be that effective," she says. "You might see some localized effects, but what happens to the black market? What happens to private consumption?" Instead, a more effective and realistic strategy would be to regulate the consumption of certain non-domesticated species, she says.**

Source: [http://www.news-medical.net/view\\_article.asp?id=555](http://www.news-medical.net/view_article.asp?id=555)

24. *April 16, San Francisco Chronicle* — **FDA to speed approval of smallpox drugs.** As a precaution against a possible terrorist attack with the smallpox virus, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wants to loosen its usual drug safety reviews to speed approval of medications to treat side effects of the smallpox vaccine. To date, the FDA has approved no drugs for complications from the vaccine. Under new FDA guidelines, the agency would expedite approval of such drugs, with no more than six months spent evaluating them. The typical drug approval process involves lengthy research in the laboratory and in humans. To establish safety and effectiveness can take years. "Bioterrorism is one of the most profound new public health threats facing the U.S.," said FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan, "and our agency intends to identify all possible steps to help minimize or eliminate the potential risks of bioterrorism to Americans."

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/chronicle/archive/2004/04/16/MNGC46606U1.DTL&type=health>

25. *April 16, Business Wire* — **SeraCare Life Sciences acquisition.** SeraCare Life Sciences, Inc. Friday, April 16, announced that it has signed an agreement to purchase substantially all of the assets of the BBI Diagnostics and BBI Biotech Research Laboratories divisions of Boston Biomedica, Inc. The purchase is for \$30 million in cash plus the assumption of certain liabilities. SeraCare is a manufacturer and provider of biological materials and services essential for the manufacture of diagnostic tests, commercial bioproduction of therapeutic drugs, and additional research applications.

Source: [http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20040416005395&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20040416005395&newsLang=en)

26. *April 15, University at Buffalo* — **Inorganic blood substitute.** A patient who is losing large amounts of blood presents a medical emergency, requiring proper blood-typing and immediate access to multiple units of compatible blood. **Health workers must hope that transfusing large amounts of blood doesn't add to the emergency and that the patient has no objection to receiving blood products. Then there are the cost and logistics of maintaining large stocks of blood at the ready. The solution to these problems may lie in an inorganic compound known as dodecafluoropentane emulsion (DDFPe).** DDFPe is a fluorocarbon-based compound used originally as a contrast medium for taking ultrasound images that University at Buffalo researchers are developing as a blood substitute. Claes Lundgren is principal researcher on a new \$1.5 million, four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund work to define further the compound's use for this purpose. **"These five milliliters would be adequate to save the life of a child weighing 26–40 pounds who had lost half his blood supply," Lundgren said.** DDFPe's ability to prevent hemorrhagic

shock lies in the capacity of the emulsion's invisible droplets to expand at body temperature into microbubbles small enough to pass through capillaries, and the strong affinity of the microbubbles for oxygen. If sufficient circulation remains to carry the bubbles to the lungs, they can pick up oxygen and deliver it to tissues.

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-04/uab-wop041504.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-04/uab-wop041504.php)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**27. *April 16, Boston.com* — Natural disaster plans get scrutiny.** Massachusetts cities of Chelsea, Everett, Malden, and Melrose could be better prepared to absorb the punches dealt by hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and even earthquakes as a result of a new planning effort. **A regional agency will be preparing a natural disaster mitigation plan for those and five other area communities through a just-awarded federal grant. The other municipalities are Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Medford, and Somerville.** The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the agency undertaking the study, will work closely with officials from the nine communities in developing the document. The plan will be regional in nature but include sections on each community. **MAPC, a regional planning agency for 101 Greater Boston cities and towns, is already preparing natural disaster plans for 10 area communities — Beverly, Lynn, Marblehead, Nahant, Peabody, Revere, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, and Winthrop. The agency is also preparing plans for 10 South Shore communities.** MAPC is one of a number of regional planning agencies the state has designated to prepare regional natural hazard plans, according to Donna Nelson, a planner for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/04/15/natural\\_disaster\\_plans\\_get\\_scrutiny/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/04/15/natural_disaster_plans_get_scrutiny/)

**28. *April 16, Denver Business Journal* — Homeland Security Institute created.** The Colorado Institute of Technology (CIT) is launching a Homeland Security Institute (CITHSI) to help Colorado — and the nation — better respond to security threats. The new institute will coordinate, facilitate and stimulate efforts in education, research and technology transfer at member institutions and the CIT, according to Margaret Cozzens, CIT president and CEO of the CITHSI. **Cozzens said the areas of focus for the institute include cybersecurity, telecommunications and warning systems, biological and chemical countermeasures, sensor systems, transportation, water and other critical infrastructure, media and forensics and policy support.** The CITHSI is undertaking a number of activities, including the establishment of research collaborations among those in industry, academia and the federal labs on specific security-focused topics, such as visual identification techniques and toxin dispersal; creation of accelerated educational programs for rapid training of first responders for the

Departments of Homeland Security, Public Safety and Local Affairs; and establishment of degree programs to prepare people for leadership positions in industry and the government relative to new homeland security initiatives.

Source: <http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2004/04/12/daily48.html>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

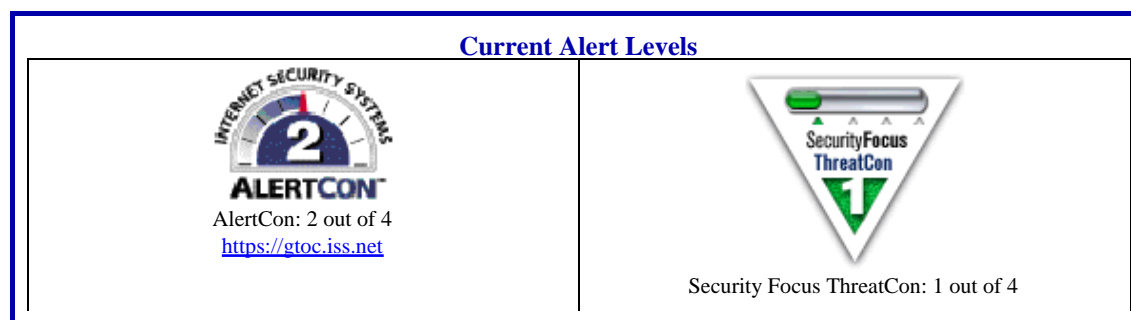
29. *April 16, BBC News (UK)* — **PCs 'infested' with spy programs.** Internet provider EarthLink says **it uncovered 29.5 million examples of spyware on over one million computers scanned between January and March.** These are parasite programs sometimes come attached to software downloaded from the Web. The details are often included in the license agreement small print that most users click through without reading. But sometimes they do not even need your permission to download, but just bury themselves on a hard drive as you browse the Internet. EarthLink said **the most common type of spyware it found was adware. These are programs that displays ads on an infected computer and also sends data about surfing habits.** But it also found examples of more insidious spyware. "It's disturbing that over 300,000 of the more serious system monitors and Trojans were uncovered," said Matt Cobb of EarthLink. System monitors can surreptitiously watch what you do, steal personal information and despatch it across the web, while Trojans can allow malicious hackers to get access to a computer and steal information.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/3633167.stm>

30. *April 15, Federal Communications Commission* — **FCC begins rulemaking proposing to allow wireless broadband operations in the 3650–3700 MHz band.** Seeking to facilitate the provision of broadband access to American consumers, especially in rural areas, the FCC on Thursday, April 15, initiated a proceeding to foster the introduction of wireless broadband operations in the 3650–3700 MHz band ("3650 MHz band"). In response to requests by wireless internet service providers (WISPs), **the FCC proposed to allow unlicensed devices to operate in some or all of the 3650 MHz band with higher power than currently authorized under Part 15 of the Rules,** subject to cognitive technology safeguards. The FCC also sought comment on options that would allow for licensed operations in this band, or for segmenting the band between licensed and unlicensed uses.

Source: <http://www.fcc.gov/>

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**



	<a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
<b>Current Virus and Port Attacks</b>	
<b>Virus:</b>	[ <a href="#">fetch #1 Virus (manual)</a> ]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	80 (www), 445 (microsoft–ds), 1026 (nterm), 2745 (urbisnet), 135 (epmap), 3127 (mydoom), 6129 (dameware), 137 (netbios–ns), 1025 (blackjack), 1433 (ms–sql–s) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## **General Sector**

**31. *April 17, The Sunday Mail (Australia)* — Hunt closes on terror cell. The arrest of a Sydney, Australia, student on terrorism training charges has intensified the police focus on four Sydney men allegedly linked to a Pakistan-based terror cell that authorities suspect plotted to bomb Australian military bases last year.** Fourth-year medical student Izhar Ul-Haque has spent his second night in the nation's highest-security prison, the Supermax at Goulburn, after becoming only the second person charged in Australia with terrorism offences since the 1978 Hilton bombing. The federal Government confirmed that Ul-Haque's arrest stemmed from a wide investigation into the activities of French terror suspect Willie Brigitte and his alleged Sydney associates. Police have not suggested Ul-Haque was linked directly or indirectly to Brigitte, who was deported to France last October. But they do allege he trained with the same terrorist group that backed the Frenchman — Lashkar-e-Taiba — and met several of its members. Two of the other men under the scrutiny of authorities are a Lebanese taxi driver and a Bangladeshi butcher. Another man, Mohammed Ndaw, was interviewed by federal police but is no longer considered to be of interest.  
Source: [http://www.thesundaymail.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,593,6.9302787%5E421,00.html](http://www.thesundaymail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,593,6.9302787%5E421,00.html)

**32. *April 16, United Press International* — Al Qaeda planned chemical attack in Jordan. Al Qaeda planned to attack Jordan's intelligence headquarters in Amman with chemical weapons and the U.S. embassy with poisonous gas, reports said.** The Saudi daily al-Hayat, monitored in Beirut, Friday, April 16, quoted official Jordanian sources as saying al Qaeda operative Abu Misaab al-Zirqawi, a Jordanian, sought to destroy the intelligence building with 'a highly-destructive' chemical bomb that would have killed as many as 20,000 people. The sources said Jordanian security arrested two al Qaeda members connected to al-Zirqawi and confiscated a car laden with explosives and arms, which was smuggled into Jordan through the Syrian border. The car, intercepted some 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the Syrian border, carried explosives, a chemical bomb and poisonous gas. The sources said the terrorists planned to use the gas in attacks against the U.S. embassy in Amman and the seat of the Jordanian government. Al-Zirqawi, who is wanted by Washington and the Jordanian authorities, is believed to be operating in Iraq.  
Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20040416-062023-2375 r.htm>

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## **DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [info@us-cert.gov](mailto:info@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov).

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